Panchayati Raj

NOVEMBER 1965

In the wake of widespread literacy campaign in the country social and political consciousness is fast spreading amongst the womenfolk. The photograph shows a night class in progress at a rural welfare training centre in Uttar Pradesh.

VOL. VI **NOVEMBER 1965** **No. 8**
KARTIKA 1887

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EDITOR : A. P. SHOME

COVER STORY

OUR PEASANTS ARE GRADUALLY ADOPTING MODERN IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES TO MAKE THE COUNTRY SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FOOD. THE PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS THE HAPPY SMILE OF A GIRL WHILE EXHIBITING HYBRID MAIZES PRODUCED BY HER FATHER.

BUSINESS NOTICE

Single Copy : 15 P.
Annual : Rs. 1.25

All enquiries regarding agencies and rates of subscription and advertisements may be addressed to the Publications Division, Old Secretariat, Delhi-6. Editorial correspondence may be addressed to the Editor, *Panchayati Raj*, Ministry of Community Development & Co-operation, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi.

LETTERS

PROBLEM OF DUAL ADMINISTRATION

Sir,

IN RAJASTHAN the dual administration by Vikas Adhikari and Panchayat Samiti over the Samiti staff has adversely affected the progress of development works. The Rajasthan Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad Act vested the Panchayat Samiti with a few limitations, with the overall charge of certain categories of services, whereas the executive administration over this staff has been vested in Vikas Adhikari, who is an officer of Rajasthan Administrative Services posted by the State Government. Thus only certain Extension officers and Vikas Adhikari belong to State services whose cases of administrative nature are dealt with by their parent departments and all remaining employees belong to Panchayat Samiti services.

As the Panchayat Samiti is constituted by non-officials with a party bias one notices now-a-days that the party interest plays the decisive role in the implementation of any development work. Every member of the Samiti expects every facility and every execution in his own interest or in the interest of the party from the employed staff and the Pradhan insists on the cent per cent execution of his orders besides all round faith in him personally and his party. The Vikas Adhikari, on the other hand, sees that his status is not affected. The clash between the political and executive heads have put the Samiti staff in a fix. They do not know whom to please. They are constantly required to tread on the razor's edge. The pleasure of one, whether just or unjust, is the displeasure of the other in the long run and thus they are constantly haunted by worries and anxieties.

Had there been all the services from the top to the bottom under one administration such a situation would have never arisen. Needless to say, this system of dual administration requires immediate rectification. We see in our practical working that the house cannot run efficiently where there are more than one household incharges.

3-9-65
Ladnun,
Rajasthan

Yours etc.
Anand Prakash Arya

IMPROVED PADDY SEEDS

Sir,

IT IS heartening to note that stress is being laid on the saturation of the paddy growing areas with improved seeds for increased production. Annual targets are being fixed for each Gram Panchayat area and attempts are being made to achieve these targets. Improved paddy seeds are being supplied to the Gram Panchayat every year by the Agricultural Department through the Block. Unfortunately, in absence of correct data it has been difficult to assess the achievement made in this respect. It has been found that a cultivator who goes in for improved seeds keeps only that much of seeds with him that is just sufficient to meet his own requirement and disposes of the balance produce

(*Continued on Page* 7)

The Collector is seen congratulating Shri Keshav Jat, a progressive farmer of Jamitpura who got the second prize in the State-level sugarcane crop competition.

JAMITPURA

Best Village of Rajasthan

S. K. Rov

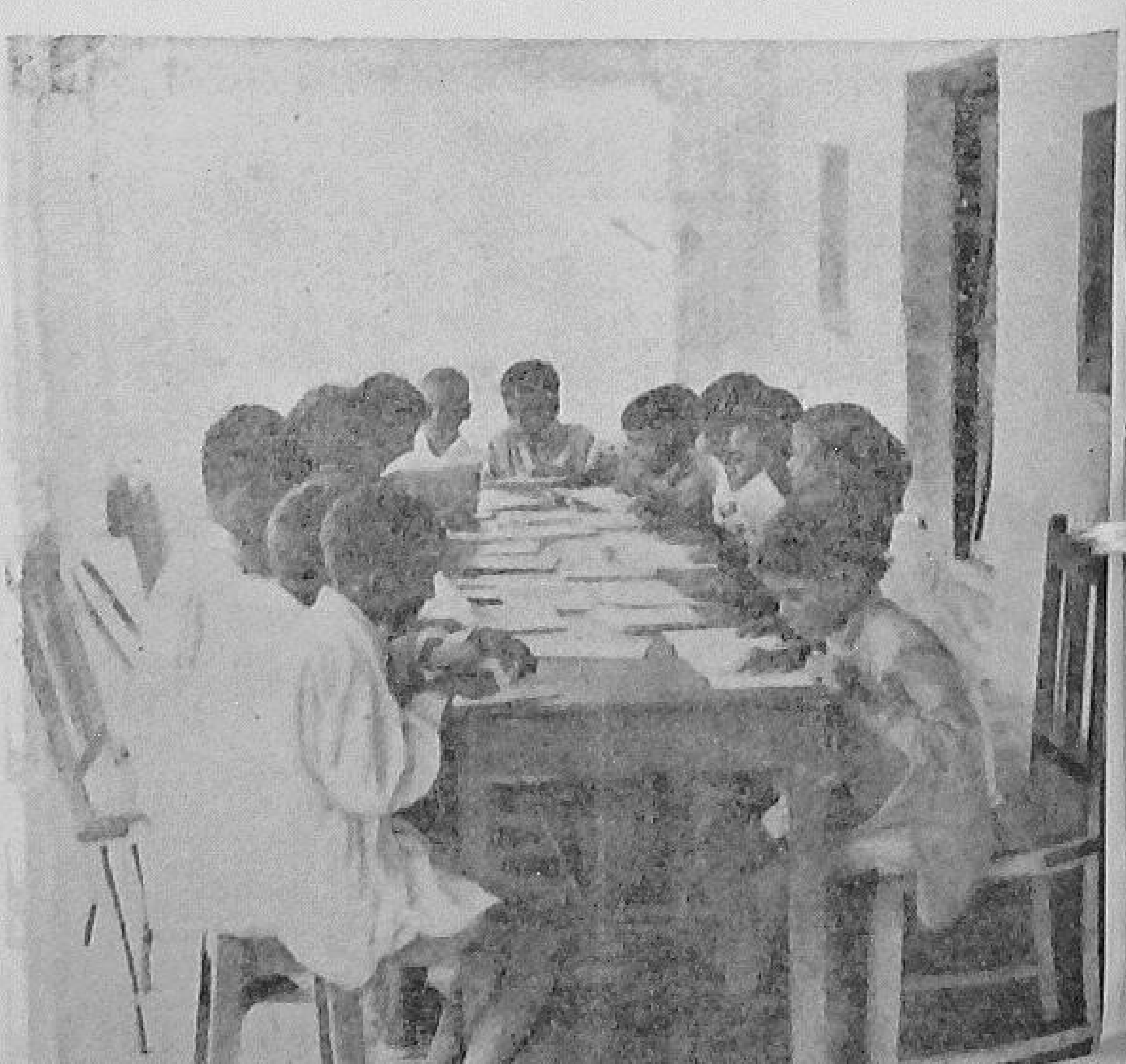
JUST ON THE Bundi-Talera road lies a small village Jamitpura, hardly two miles away from the head-quarters of Talera Panchayat Samiti. This village, which was so long like any other obscure village in Rajasthan, recently hit the headlines when it was adjudged the best village of the State for the year 1964-65. It has also been selected by the State Government for the national-level contest.

The story behind Jamitpura's tremendous success —its march from obscurity to fame—is interesting and encouraging. Jamitpura has added another chapter to the history of rural upliftment that is being written all over the country through the Community Development programme and Panchayati Raj institutions. The people of this village have proved that hard work and correct leadership can change the economic condition of the country in no time.

The Chambal River Valley Project also helped in the rapid emergence of Jamitpura from dark squalid existence that it had even five years ago to its present prosperity. Today the per capita income of the village has reached Rs. 1,166 as against the average Rs. 262 for the whole of Rajasthan.

Five years ago most of the villagers of Jamitpura —1,277 in number—lived a hand-to-mouth life by transporting stones from the quarries of the adjoining Dhaneswar range. The cultivable land was mostly parched with a poor yield. Then came the canal of the Chambal River Valley Project bringing much needed nourishment for the thirsty land. Now the entire land of the village—1,278 acres—is receiving the benefits of irrigation. The people did not delay in taking advantage of this canal. The face of Jamitpura changed rapidly. The dry barren canvas was removed and in its place came the green fields of sugarcane, wheat and paddy. Gone were the days of daily drudgery of transportation of stones. Now among the smiling crops are found smiling happy faces. Today in Jamitpura there is not a single family which is not depending on agriculture for its livelihood—not a single landless farmer.

Children studying at the library at Jamitpura



The cultivation of sugarcane caused economic revolution in this village. It was first introduced by a progressive farmer, Shri Keshav Jat, who won the second prize in the State-level sugarcane competition in 1962-63. The village has increased the production of sugarcane by leaps and bounds during the last three years. Sugarcane was cultivated on 25 bighas of land in 1961-62 but today the crop covers 1,500 bighas. During the year of the best village competition period, 2,520 mds. of fertilizers worth Rs. 40,000 have been used to have an yield of sugarcane crop worth Rs. 3 lakhs.

Paddy cultivation was entirely unknown to this village. But the villagers have made the impossible possible. Today 300 bighas of land are covered with paddy crop. Wheat is another crop that fetches money for the villagers. The value of paddy and wheat crops is estimated at Rs. 2 lakhs.

Paddy cultivation in progress

The economic prosperity of the village has led to social and educational progress. About 92 per cent of the children of this village attend the village primary school.

Jamitpura has also to its credit a cooperative which looks after the needs of its members. About 60 per cent of the families inhabiting the village are its members.

The credit of Jamitpura's all-round progress goes to its Panchayat functioning under the inspired leadership of Shri Nand Singh, who has been elected Sarpanch for the second time. The Panchayat has within its jurisdiction six villages. It is constituted with eight Panches and two coopted women Panches. This goes to show that the women of Jamitpura have come forward not only to have their rightful place in society but also to work shoulder to shoulder with men to create a better living atmosphere for future generations.

It would be improper not to mention the Gram Sevak, Shri Mahesh Chandra, who is silently and tirelessly playing his role in this fascinating saga of Jamitpura's development. The villagers entirely depend on him for guidance.

Jamitpura is a model village as envisaged by Jawaharlal Nehru. It has a Panchayat, a school and a cooperative—the three essential characteristics of a model village. But it has something more—the indomitable spirit of the people. The people of Jamitpura are determined to leave behind a village where want, poverty and illiteracy would be unknown things. They are working hard to keep the greatest enemy of man—hunger—far, far away from the posterity.

Meet Best Gram Sevak of Rajasthan

B. S. TRIVEDI

AT THE VERY first sight he does not in any way look different from others. Frankly I myself was a bit disappointed when I met Shri N. D. Bijarania for the first time. How could this unimpressive man be adjudged the best Gram Sevak of Rajasthan for 1964-65, I wondered. But soon I found out the cause of this man's success. A few words uttered by him revealed his unflinching faith in the Community Development programme and devotion to his duty. Faith is, no doubt, the first rung of ladder to success.

Round faced with a pair of bright eyes and firmness on the forehead, Shri Bijarania charmed me with his suave manner. Twenty-five year old Nandlal Bijarania has already rendered seven years of Government service as a Gram Sevak and during these seven years he has been singled out as the best Gram Sevak at the district level for four consecutive years. He also brought laurels to his circle headquarters—Ajmeri, in Neem-ka-Thana Panchayat Samiti of Sikar district—which was adjudged the best village in the district level consecutively in 1963-64 and 1964-65.

Incidentally,, Shri Bijarania's circle, Ajmeri includes ten villages having 26,000 acres of cultivable land with a population of about 11,500. Neem-ka-Thana

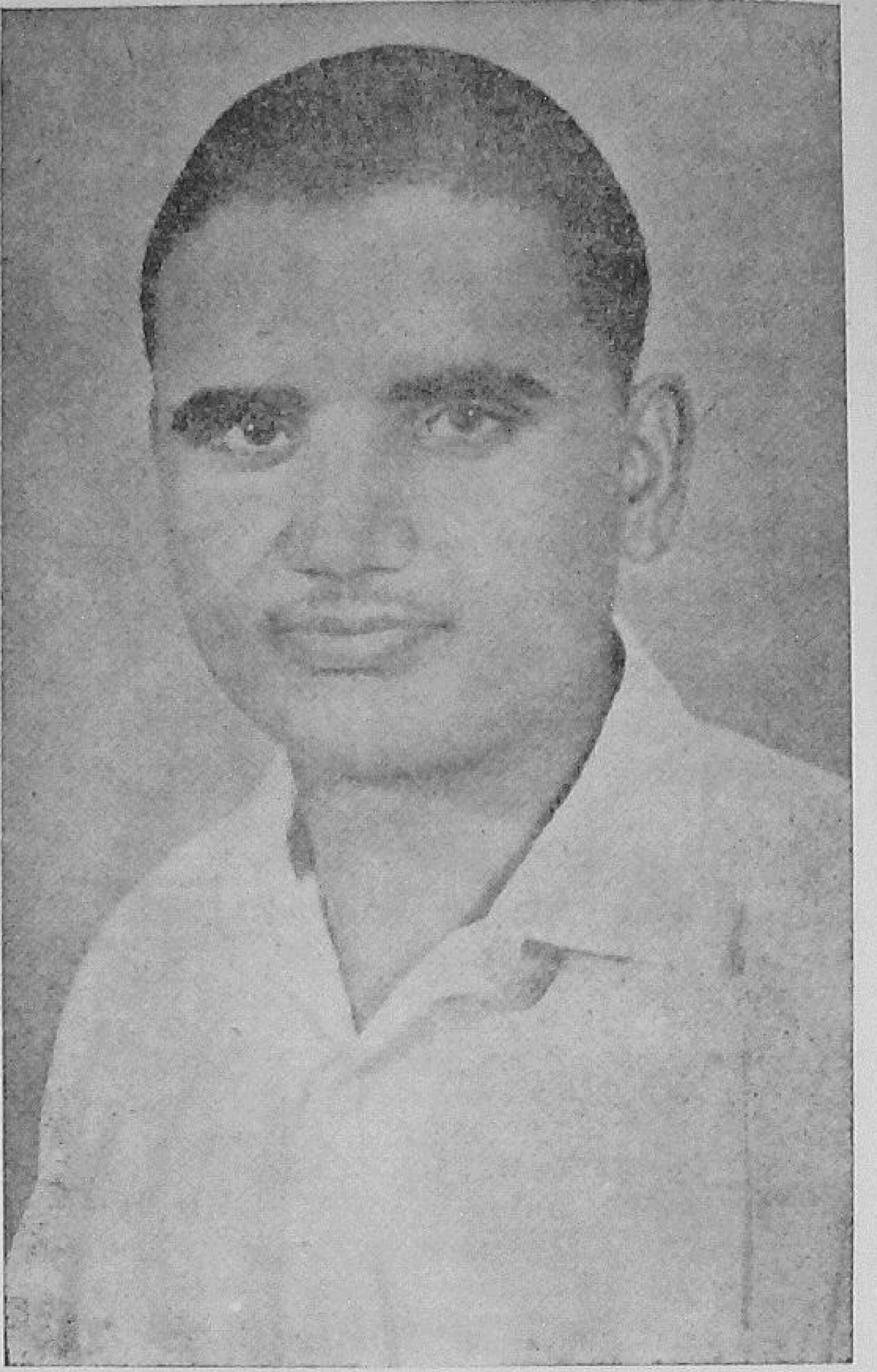
borders the Hariana region of the Punjab which is famous for its cattle breed. Ajmeri circle has more than 21,500 cattle heads of the best Hariana breed. Ajmeri Panchayat is inhabited by 298 agriculturist families who own 1,700 acres of cultivable land. There is also a cooperative society in the village which is working splendidly.

When I asked Shri Bijarania how he could be so successful, he simply smiled. "I do not know it myself," he said softly after a while. "But there is one thing. Every year I concentrate all my efforts on a particular aspect of agriculture and I try my best to persuade the people to adopt that particular practice intensively. In the very beginning, digging of compost pits was my aim and I got about 100 pits dug in a village of my circle. There was not much open space in the village for compost pits, so I selected a site—a waste land—outside the village. The villagers were ultimately convinced that the compost manure was better than dry cowdung in enriching the soil.

"Another year I concentrated on improved seed and in a way I saturated the whole village with the improved variety of wheat seed. Obviously this has had its effect. This year I turned to the use of chemical fertilizers and I feel proud to say that every cultivator in my village is using them more or less."

Shri Bijarania hails from an agriculturist family. It is perhaps for this reason that he has a deep insight into the agricultural problems and he finds their workable solutions so easily. He has his own agricultural land in his native village where his younger brother does cultivation. He is too modest to claim any credit for his success as a Gram Sevak. "Actually the villagers should be awarded prizes not me," he said politely.

The path to success has not been smooth for Bijarania. He has also some bitter experiences to narrate. "Once, out of sheer enthusiasm," he said, "I distributed 18 maunds of seed of hybrid maize in Tatera village and persuaded all the farmers to sow the hybrid maize in place of desi maize. But due to lack of my experience and impatience of farmers we could not succeed in harvesting even as much as desi maize seeds would have yielded," he confessed, "we even did not know that the hybrid maize is harvested later than desi maize is done."



Shri N. L. Bijarania

"It is my great privilege to have a chance to meet you Shri Bijarania", I said, "men like you will certainly go down in history of modern India as. . . ."

"Please," he interrupted, "I am a humble servant of the people. I do realise that I have a duty to my country and the people and I am trying in my humblest way to do it. I do not crave for a place in history. How can I? I am not doing anything great, anything to speak about. I am simply doing my duty as you are doing yours."

Once again I looked at that round face with a pair of bright eyes.

This war on our multi-communal democracy cannot be won on the battle field alone. The Jawans will defend our frontiers. It is we, who have to defend our hearth and home and the spirit that dwells within.—**S. K. Dey**

ANKALI

a new chapter in cooperation

KRISHNA KUMARI

IF ONE TRAVELS from Sangli to Jaysingpur in Maharashtra, he will after six miles of journey come across a small village, Ankali. Small but prosperous. The tall sugarcanes and the green paddy fields touching almost the horizon will greet the visitor. The crops while swaying in breeze will seem to murmur, "We are happy". So will the smiling faces of the villagers say, "We are happy". Indeed, Ankali is happy. And the credit for bringing in this atmosphere of happiness and contentment goes to the Ankali Cooperative Irrigation Society.

If we want to trace the origin of the Ankali Cooperative Irrigation Society we will have to go back a decade and a half. Ankali was then not prosperous as it is at present. With an annual rainfall of 20 to 25 inches Ankali faced a tremendous scarcity of water, which impeded its cultivation. The river Krishna, however, flows nearby but the villagers were not financially strong enough to derive benefit from it. Ankali was then just like many villages in India languishing in poverty.

In 1950, forty cultivators of Ankali thought of organising an irrigation society so as to draw water from the river by means of pumps to irrigate their land. This gave birth to a Cooperative Society which was registered on the 28th February, 1950. But the necessary funds could not be raised easily. The Society took about two years to be in a position to purchase diesel engines, pipes, etc. The value of a share was fixed at Rs. 50 and a member was required to purchase four shares per acre of land he wanted to irrigate. The share capital so raised was found to be inadequate to meet all the costs including the costs of water channel in the members' fields. The Society then decided to take an interest free deposit of Rs. 9,000 from its members. The Society started functioning effectively from the 1st February, 1952. At the first instance about 110 acres of land were brought under irrigation. Thus the Society once again proved that voluntary association, self-help and mutual aid, independent and democratic management are the basic philosophy of cooperation. If all these characteristics are present no outside help is necessary to achieve any goal.

Once the availability of water was ensured the members were enthused to extract the maximum from the soil. They raised sugarcane in addition to paddy, jowar and groundnut on the irrigated land. Very soon thirteen other members of the village, who had land in the commanding area, joined the Society. Now the 53 members of the Society own 125 acres.

The Society so far has constructed 7,570 ft. of pipe lines and the members have constructed 3,430 ft. of channels in their own fields at their expenses. Money has been refunded to those members who have constructed field channels themselves. Till 1956-57 water charges had been collected from the members on the basis of crops raised by them. The sugarcane producers were required to pay more than the growers of paddy or wheat as sugarcane yields more profit and requires more water. From 1957-58 the water charges have been fixed on the basis of number of waterings per acre subject to the minimum of five waterings per acre. The present rate is Rs. 12 per watering per acre. If a non-member wants to take water he is required to pay Rs. 18 per watering per acre. Water is also distributed by rotation. Due to regular supply of water, the main production in irrigated area is commercial crops like sugarcane, chillies. Two to three crops are being raised on the same land. Sugarcane has given an income of Rs. 800 to Rs. 1,000 per acre after meeting all expenses. This has appreciably improved the economic condition of the agriculturist members.

The progress of the Society can now be indicated in concrete terms. The Society has raised the share capital from Rs. 2,000 at its inception to Rs. 26,200 at present. During 1963-64 its working capital was Rs. 92,585, reserve funds Rs. 6,527, profit Rs. 3,820 and special reserve or undistributed profit Rs. 1,545 after allowing depreciation of Rs. 32,824 for the machinery and pipelines. It collected water charges of Rs. 18,115 during the year. One outstanding feature is that the Society has never borrowed any amount from the Central Cooperative Bank from its very beginning. It has fully depended on the contribution of the members. In 1959, the State Government contributed an amount of Rs. 16,520 on the condition

that if the Society worked successfully for the next five years then the amount could be treated as subsidy. Thus in 1964 the Society was entitled to get this amount.

The success of the Society has made it popular in the village. It has not been able to accept more members as its present capacity for irrigation has reached the optimum level. Moreover, the State Government is not allowing the extension of irrigation from the river Krishna for commercial crops. The Society has submitted a scheme for irrigating an additional area of 250 acres to be exclusively utilised for food crops. The villagers are prepared to raise money for the project which has been estimated to cost Rs. 1,50,000. The scheme is likely to receive sanction as it is meant for raising food crops.

The scheme when implemented will enable the Society to cover the remaining agricultural families having land at Ankali.

The success of the Ankali Cooperative Irrigation Society has fully established the cooperative gospel of "Each for all and all for each". Time is not far when this service society will lead to a cooperative farming society. Ankali is, no doubt, writing a new chapter in the history of cooperation of the country.

AGASTEESWARAM ON THE MARCH

By Our Correspondent

DEMOCRATIC decentralisation has roused the people in our country from their age-long slumber. The whole of India—from Kashmir to Kanya Kumari, from Kohima to Kutch—today throbs with a new life. People are gradually becoming conscious of their responsibility to the country and the future generations. They are coming forward to usher in a new India.

Agasteeswaram Panchayat Union, situated at the second mile north from Kanya Kumari the southern most end of India, is one of the thousands of Panchayats engaged in the noble task of nation building—building democracy from grass roots. This Union with an area of 53 sq. miles and population of 85,853 has recorded a remarkable progress in all the spheres of rural upliftment.

The Union pays the greatest attention to the agricultural development. It renders financial assistance to the cultivators for plantation and compost making. Last year 522 compost pits and 706 farm yard manure pits were dug. Besides, 37,900 Glyricidia and 5,440 Ipomea cuttings were planted for green manuring. The Union also distributed improved agricultural implements to the value of Rs. 2,939 to the cultivators.

Animal husbandry receives good attention from the Panchayat Union. Last year 120 white Leghorn cockerels were distributed to the people on exchange basis. About 372 hatching eggs were also distributed. At present the Union has one Veterinary dispensary, one Key village main centre and five-centres functioning within its jurisdiction. Last year saw birth of four poultry units.

The people of Agasteeswaram Block have been fully brought under the cooperative field. At present there are 67 cooperative societies operating with a share capital of Rs. 5,28,518. Out of these 67 cooperative societies, thirty are credit societies including Agricultural Banks which disbursed loans to the cultivators to the tune of Rs. 11,35,399 last year. About 21 societies are engaged in distributing chemical fertilizers including manuring mixtures. Besides fertilizers, the cooperatives also distribute sugar, rice, wheat, flour etc. to the people of this Block.

Among other cooperatives functioning in the Block mention may be made to two students' cooperative societies, one rural housing society which built sixteen houses last year and nine milk supply societies which have a daily average production of 600 litres.

Though Agasteeswaram Panchayat Union has no cooperative society of its own, its people are fully benefited by these cooperative societies of the Block.

The people of the Panchayat Union are trying their best to provide their villages with all civic amenities. Last year a new road about two miles long was constructed. Besides metalling was done to the length of five miles. Two culverts were constructed and four wells dug. One overhead tank for protected water supply scheme and a Key village sub-centre building were also constructed.

To develop pisciculture in the Union one fish nursery was made last year.

The Union rightly realises that rural industrialisation is the quickest means of improving the economic lot of the people. The Union has three industrial units—blacksmithy, carpentry and non-edible oil soap—working remarkably well. Last year the Carpentry Unit made furniture to the value of Rs. 11,437 and made a profit of about Rs. 2,000. Similarly, the Blacksmithy Unit made a profit of about Rs. 1,200 by selling agricultural implements. The non-edible oil soap unit produced about 3,343 kilograms of soap and sold only 774 kilograms during the year.

The Union, however, has not so far been entrusted with the responsibility of spreading education. Elementary schools are not under its control. But the Union encourages youth and cultural activities. Last year 45 youth clubs, 10 Mather Sangams and five Balwadis were started. Besides, cultural functions, film shows, baby shows, etc. were organised.

Thus Agasteeswaram is marching confidently to all round prosperity. The people are blessed with correct leadership. No doubt, the people of Agasteeswaram will reach their cherished goal.

LETTERS

(*Continued from Page 1*)

for money income or consumes the stock. Other cultivators hardly care for different varieties of improved seeds and even if any one looks for, he does not get them from the seed growers.

Thus on field check it is found that the figures of achievement of saturation through mutual exchange are most deceptive. The cultivators are found to have been using the same seeds which have come down to them from their great grandfather's time. The Village Level Worker is expected to arrange mutual exchange and maintain exact figures. It is not humanly possible for a Village Level Worker to arrange mutual exchange in all the villages of his jurisdiction.

On the other hand, the Gram Panchayats, which are expected to ensure such an exchange of improved paddy seeds through their agency do not take any interest in this work.

But in view of the importance of this factor in the agricultural production, some practical measures should be found out to tide over these difficulties. I would suggest that the primary societies at the Gram Panchayat level should better purchase different varieties of improved paddy seeds after harvest every year and store them for supply in the next season. If the society is not interested, then it is advisable that the procurement of such seeds is done through Block by spending money from the Block budget funds and kept in rural godowns in the charge of Village Level Workers for supply to the cultivators in the next season.

Yours etc.,
P. C. Pattanayak
Block Development Officer

22-9-65
Kendrapara-1,
Orissa

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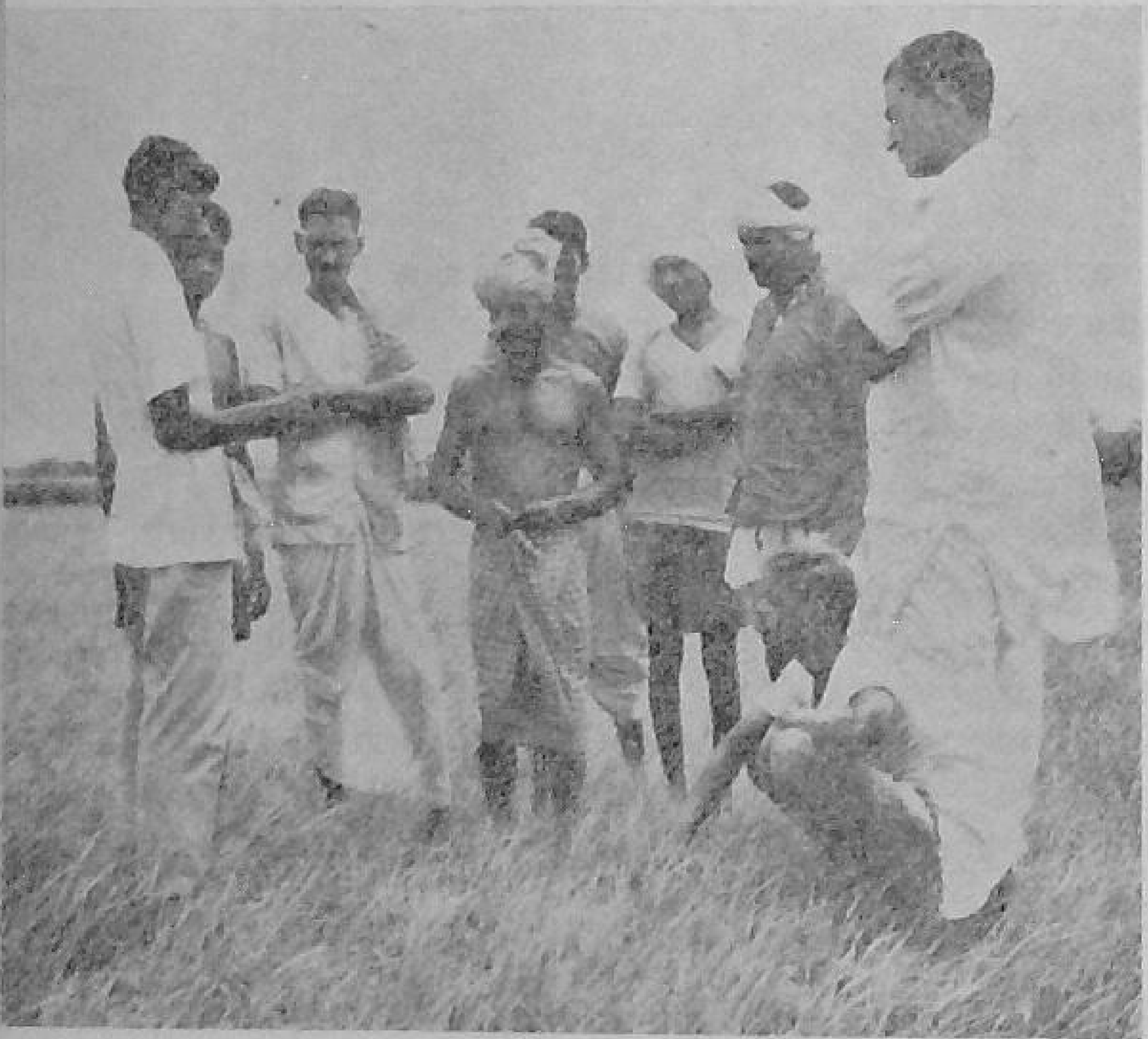

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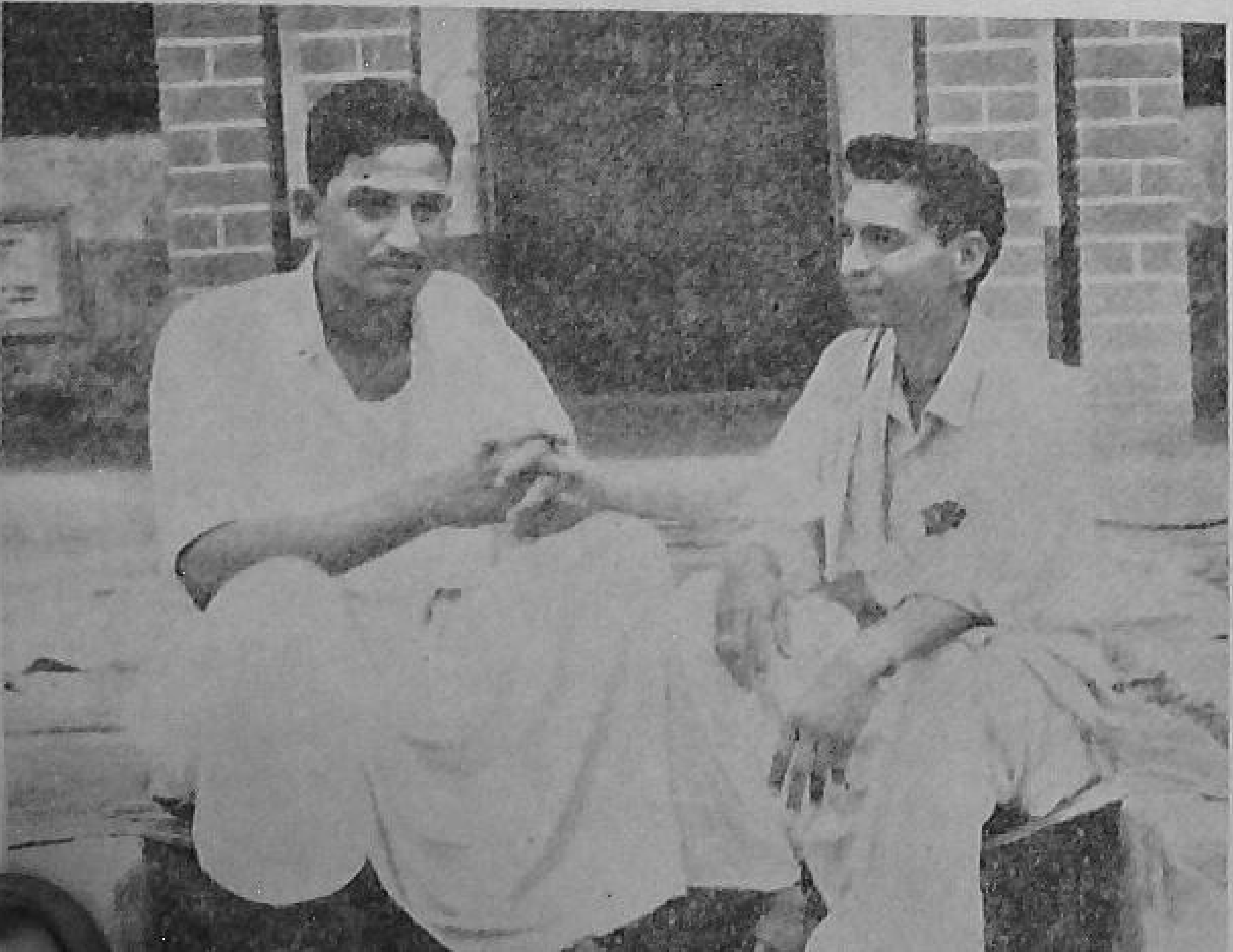

PAWANI

Best Village of Madhya Pradesh

MAHESH COOMAR

PAWANI, an obscure village in Madhya Pradesh, recently came into prominence as the best village of the State. Pawani has won this laurel due to sheer hard work and the noble spirit to work together of its people.

Situated hardly at a distance of three miles from the main road from Raipur to Baleda, Pawani is a small village with a population not more than one thousand. The people are solely dependent on agriculture. But the farmers did not have adequate irrigation facilities. This impeded their cultivation. The people, however, have indomitable courage and an irresistible urge to go forward. They joined hands to construct a pond at a cost of Rs. 8,000 which acts as a reservoir. Thus the thirsty land gets water whenever it requires. The people have also built a dam on the stream flowing nearby. This has not only ensured better irrigation of the fields but has also saved the village from annual inundation during the monsoon. Today, 1,000 acres out of the total cultivable land of 1,180 acres in Pawani have been brought under irrigation. With better irrigation of the land the villagers have been able to produce two crops instead of one. And prosperity is no longer eluding them. Thanks to the Community Development programme, Pawani has been able to come out from the days of scarcity and now is marching with confidence to prosperity.

The farmers of Pawani readily adopted scientific methods of cultivation and applied chemical fertilizers in their field. They have also dug 560 compost pits in their area. The use of improved implements, has yielded better results and their agricultural production has gone up by 60 per cent.

The villagers are also eager to have a better standard of living. They are beautifying Pawani village by growing trees all around it. The streets are kept neat and clean. The huts and houses are whitewashed to give an impression of uniformity. They have connected their village with the main pucca road by constructing a three-mile long road through shramdan. If the people had not come forward to offer voluntary labour for its construction, this approach road would have cost them Rs. 25,000. The poultry farm of the village is having 1,200 chickens. One well has been dug and fitted with a pump to provide the school children with drinking water. This has also been done by means of the donations and contributions from the villagers. Yes, they are one in all and all in

one. They are trying together to improve their village and to create a better living atmosphere for the posterity. How the people of Pawani have risen unitedly to attain this goal has been amply proved by the unanimous election of the village Panchayat. Pawani in this respect has set a noble example before all the Panchayats in the country. With course of time Pawani's march to progress and prosperity will, no doubt, be speedier.

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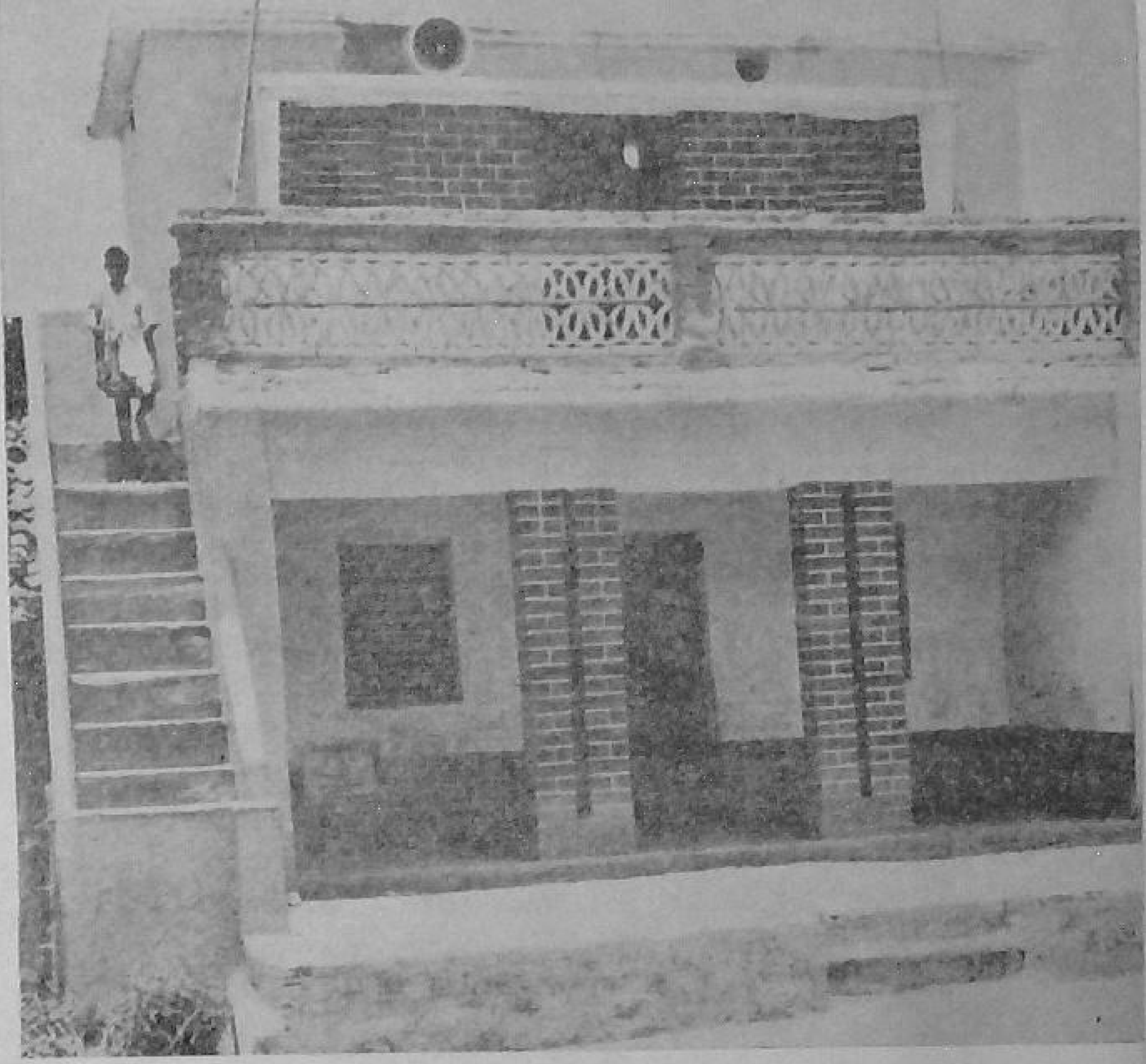

PICTURE GUIDE

1. *Spectacular cultivation of paddy at Pawani. In 1964-65 Pawani recorded a sixty per cent rise in agricultural production.*
2. *The Gram Sevak is seen instructing the farmers on improved agricultural methods.*
3. *Gram Sevak Shri Rameshwar Gir and the enthusiastic Up-Sarpanch of Pawani, Shri Kisan Singh*
4. *A view of the Panchayat Ghar built through the people's contribution at Pawani*
5. *A view of the dam built by the people to irrigate their fields*

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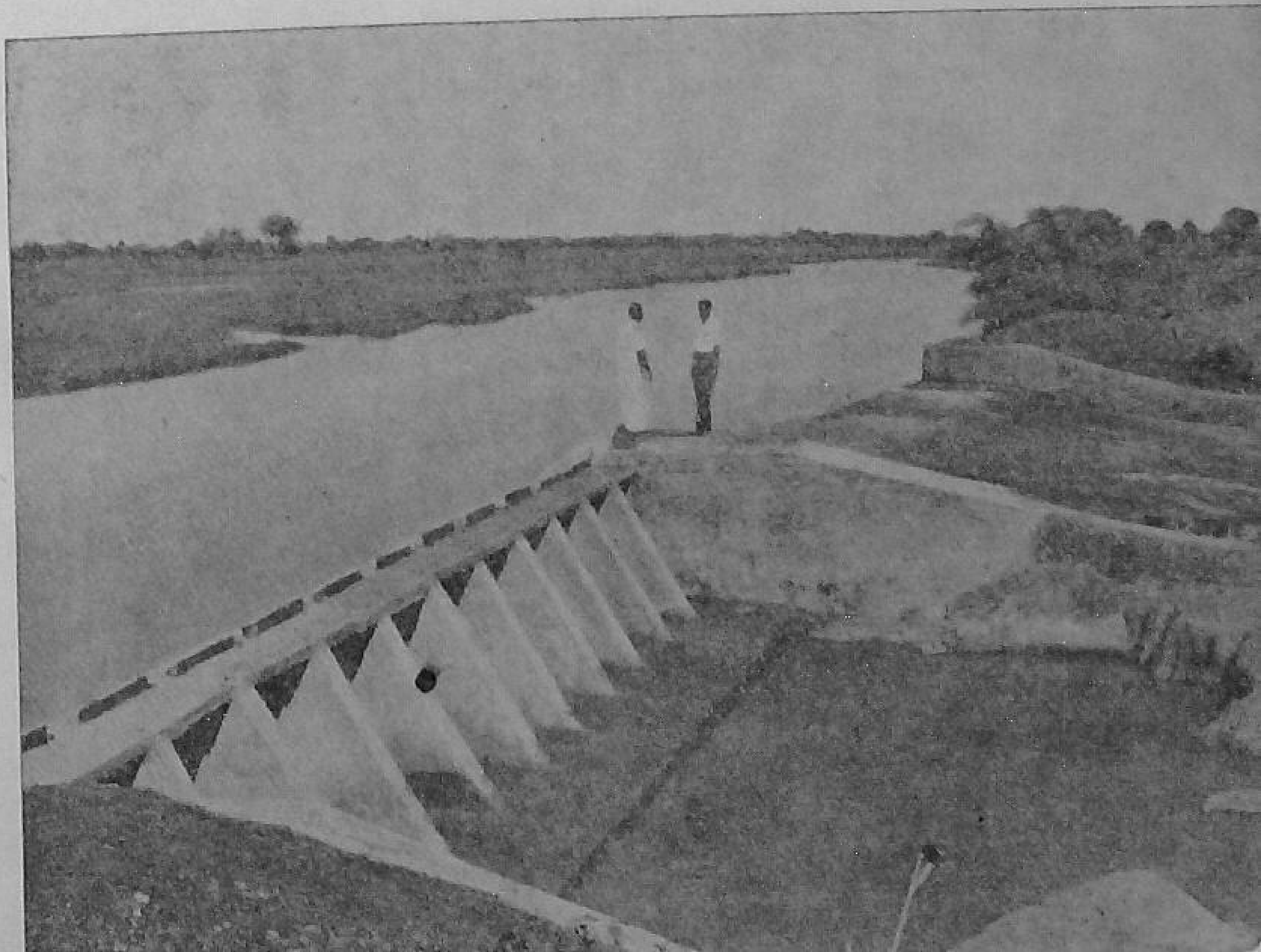

Kamarpukur—A New Pilgrimage

A. B. DUTTA

THE VILLAGE Kamarpukur in the district of Hooghly, West Bengal, needs possibly little introduction. It is the Bethelhem of the East. A little more than one hundred years back, in the cottage of a poor Brahmin of this village was born Shri Ramakrishna, the great seer of truths and lover of mankind and the guru of Swami Vivekananda. It is also within the hailing distance of Joyrambati—the birth place of Ramakrishna's consort Sarada Devi. That is why Kamarpukur draws a good number of devotees throughout the year. The people now also see with admiration how this holy village has joined in the country's march towards progress and prosperity.

Kamarpukur today with its numerous institutions, its progressive farmers, band of social workers and rural electrification is different from what it was even five or six years back. Its farmers hardly knew anything then except the traditional methods of cultivation. As a result, the village presented a sad paradox of poverty amidst plenty. Communications were hard and transport was poor. Farmers hardly sent their children to school. The women remained aloof from the outside world. Simple and modest, the people lived in isolation.

Kamarpukur awoke from its age-long slumber in 1960 when the Community Development programme was launched here. The programme injected new life into the people. They got confidence when they saw the Extension staff working. The Extension workers lived in their midst and worked with them. This went a long way. People took them as their friends, their brethren. This cordial feeling bred sincere cooperation. And after that it was not difficult to bring a revolutionary change in Kamarpukur. Today hundreds of acres of land have been brought under line sowing. Improved practices are adopted on a massive scale. The yield is recording spectacular rise every year. Quite a number of progressive farmers have come up. The big farm of the Sri Ramakrishna Mission provides an excellent field laboratory where the local farmers are trained in the use of tractor, improved methods of weeding, etc. Today a farmer has not to be told about the use of chemical fertilizers. Right in time he will press for the same. The efforts of the people for assured irrigation are of late finding culmination in the installation of deep pumping sets. It is all a competition for the farmers now. Thus, the village economy has been put on a sound keel. The farmers today are much better off.

But man does not live by bread alone. Kamarpukur is making rapid strides in education. The farmer has no more to be told to send his boy to the school nearby. Basic, primary and multipurpose schools have come up. Kamarpukur boasts of its library which caters to the needs of the adults. To meet the growing needs of higher education a degree college has been set up for which the villagers donated liberally. The college named after the famous consorts—Sri Ramakrishna and Sarada Devi—stands near the Math.

Kamarpukur has rightly realised that rapid progress is not possile if the women are ignored and not allowed to have their rightful place in society. A Programme Implementing Committee is now functioning here. The Block and this Committee have joined hands to give all facilities to women. The women learn arts and crafts which help them in im-

A sectional view of the annual exhibition organised at Kamarpukur. The exhibition draws a large number of visitors.

proving the financial position of the family. The P.I.C. has created new leadership for them. They have also brought out a band of social workers who work for the cause of women. The women of Kamarpukur recently turned out garments for our Jawans.

The young men of Kamarpukur have their club which has also a productive wing. The incandescent sticks made at this centre have earned a name.

And also for other programmes, people's initiative has been abundantly there, and success is the order of the day.

In short, the old isolation in the village has been broken; old inertia is gone. The people of Kamarpukur are on the move—man and woman, young and old. A vista of fuller, richer life is now before them. The people's urge had truly been there latent, which the Community Development programme has ignited. So Kamarpukur has now come up as a fine, model village. No wonder, that the visitors to this holy place look askance all round. Some desire to settle here for good. The Panchayat has of late been set up in the village to give concrete shape to the people's desires.

BURHWAL—AN IDEAL COOP. SOCIETY

J. TRIPATHI

COOPERATION is the easiest means of attaining prosperity. The path of cooperation is, however, strewn with thorns—thorns of individual interests. But once the march is undertaken with courage and determination the destination of plenty and richness is reached in no time. This has been proved by so many cooperatives flourishing in the country. The latest addition to this saga of success in cooperation is Burhwal Cooperative Society.

Burhwal is situated at a distance of about ten miles from Jagdishpur Block headquarters in Shahabad district of Bihar. This village came to limelight recently when its cooperative society was adjudged the best in Jagdishpur Block. The representatives of the State Registrar of Cooperative Societies and the Reserve Bank of India paid a visit to this village and were thoroughly impressed at the working of the Cooperative Society.

The march of the Cooperative Society, which came into being in 1953, to success has not been smooth and easy. Thanks to the enthusiasm and hard work of a prominent village leader, Shri Rajendra Singh the Society saw its birth. He was assisted in this noble task by four selfless workers. The sole aim of the Society at its initial stage was to supply chemical fertilizers to its members on convenient terms. There were various difficulties that the society had to face. The financial stability constantly eluded it. But the members did not lose heart. With grim determination they stuck to it. At last fortune smiled on them. It was in the year 1961 when Burhwal was covered by Intensive Agricultural District Programme.

The Programme injected a new life in the village. The new enthusiasm brought a spurt in the activities of the Society. The Society which had a membership of 71 in 1961-62 now has 116 members. The share capital has risen from Rs. 1,056 in 1961-62 to Rs. 2,900 now. The maximum credit limit of the Society is Rs. 50,000 and of the members is ten times of the paid up share capital.

The Society is playing an important role in increasing the agricultural production. Out of 331 agriculturist families inhabiting the village, 116 are represented in the Society. Cooperative credit is advanced to the members on the basis of Farm Production Plan duly approved by the prescribed authorities. Due date of repayment is fixed according to harvest time. Loan advanced for *Bhadai* and *Kharif* crops must be repaid by the 28th February and that advanced for *Rabi* crop by the 30th April of the year. The outstanding feature of Burhwal Cooperative Society is that repayment to the bank is made out of the actual recoveries from the members.

The credit for this tremendous success of the Society goes to proper and sustained leadership. Shri Rajendra Singh and his band of enthusiastic workers still take interest in the affairs of the Society. Credit may also be shared by the efficient staff posted to supervise the working of the Society. The Society, which is making a continued progress, may take the form of a small bank in near future to meet the financial need of the members.

Burhwal is writing a new chapter in the history of cooperation which will be read with admiration by the posterity.

Hybrid Maize Comes to Harohalli

H. HULIYARAPPA

WE ARE MAKING all efforts to raise the food output in the country. We have to attain self-sufficiency in food to stop constant drain of foreign exchange, which is vital for our rapid progress and defence measures.

But to increase agricultural production within a short term is not easy in our country. The cultivators mostly stick to the traditional practices and are reluctant to adopt scientific methods. The crop planning is left by the father to son and that goes on for generations. That is why despite our huge natural resources we are deficient in food and depend on the help from the other countries.

This gloomy picture of the Indian agriculture is slowly being lifted thanks to the Community Development programme and a band of workers who have dedicated themselves to it. Our farmers are slowly realising the important role they have to play in ushering in a better India. Gradually the old traditional practices are yielding place to improved techniques. New crops are appearing in places where they were unknown so long. Down in the South an obscure village Harohalli has put its right step forward to do its bit in the country-wide campaign for more food. The villagers of this small village have produced hybrid maize for the first time.

The farmers of Bangalore district in Mysore usually grow ragi. In some talukas like Hosakote, Devanahalli and Anekal, however, they produce vegetables which find ready market in Bangalore City. But hybrid maize? No, they have never tried it. What is the use in wasting labour on a new crop? This was the general feeling that prevailed among the farmers of Bangalore district till Professor Vernon E. Ross, an Extension Adviser to the Agricultural College at Hebbal, visited Harohalli village in Devanahalli Block.

High officials are seen going round the maize plots at Harohalli

Prof. Ross contacted the farmers through the local Gram Sevak and advised them to cultivate hybrid maize. They nodded their heads. No. But after much persuasion two farmers came forward to make the experiment.

Two check plots—one to cultivate local maize according to local practices and the other to cultivate the same with improved techniques were laid out. In between a plot was left for the cultivation of hybrid maize.

After ploughing four times with K. M. Plough compost manure was applied at the rate of 14 tons per acre. Chemical fertilizers—240 kg. of Ammonium sulphate, 160 kg. of Superphosphate and 20 kg. of Potash—were applied in the furrows which were made 24 inches apart. Then the seeds were sown 12 inches apart. The plots were irrigated regularly. While earthing up about 45 days after the sowing, a second doze of nitrogenous fertilizer was given.

Two months later, the Development Commissioner along with high officials visited Harohalli to see for himself the result of this novel experiment. The village was also thronged on that day by hundreds of farmers from nearby places. All of them were surprised to see the height of hybrid maize crops which raised their heads about two feet higher than those of the local maize.

The harvest also had its own tale to tell. The local maize with local practices yielded 4,096 lbs. and with improved techniques 4,480 lbs. per acre while the per acre yield of the hybrid maize was 9,216 lbs. The result was so convincing that the farmers in their hundreds agreed to take up hybrid maize cultivation. Hybrid maize also assured them of a better return as Bangalore market offered 10 Paise per cob against 5 Paise for the local maize crop.

The farmers of Harohalli have shown that the agriculturists in the country are ready to adopt scientific methods if they can be convinced with concrete results.

TEACHER TURNS FARMER

G. RAMAMURTI

GORSA is a small village with about two thousand inhabitants. The village is about ten miles north of Kakinada, headquarters of East Godavari District. And in that village lives Sarma, a prosperous farmer, aged about sixty-five, wiry and energetic, enthusiastic about his work but frugal to the core. In fact, he attributes his prosperity more to his frugality than to any other cause.

I had an occasion to meet him recently after his retirement. If anything, he has grown more cheerful and ebullient. He explained that during his service as a school teacher he saved enough by cutting out unnecessary items of household expenses and cleared off the debts incurred by his father. By the time of his retirement which almost coincided with the commencement of the First Five Year Plan he had a patrimony of three acres of land in the village free from all encumbrances.

Any one in his position at that time would have settled in the town nearby, started a tutorial school and led a hand-to-mouth existence there. Not Sarma. He simply cast of his school teacher's attitudes and habits and assumed the role of an agriculturist in his own village.

Fortune favoured him. The Five Year Plans aided him. Above all, his whole hearted devotion to agriculture improved the yields on the land year by year; his prospects brightened and his properties increased.

During the initial period he had his own problems. He had to purchase bulls, seeds and fertilizers. He approached the authorities for loans which were not readily available. Meanwhile, he had to borrow from friends and relatives. But in course of time the Government loans for seeds and fertilizers started reaching him on time and he had practically no need to obtain loans from private parties. His personal efforts and the economies he effected in cultivating his land left him with enough reserves which he is now using to modernise his methods of cultivation. Previously he had an oil engine to draw water from the wells for irrigating his fields. Recently the government extended the electrical lines from the nearby village and supplied power for agricultural purposes. Sarma took advantage of this and exchanged the oil engine for the electric motor. The cost of irrigation has, he explained, been reduced considerably on account of the changeover.

He has succeeded in raising sugarcane in what was thought to be purely a paddy field. He has also succeeded in raising two crops on what was formerly a single crop land. By careful husbanding of resources available and by taking full advantage of the assistance offered and services rendered under the Five Year Plans he has raised his holding from a mere three acres to twenty-one acres within about fifteen years.

This is not all. On account of his outstanding achievements in agriculture, he is the most popular man in the village and his advice is constantly sought as to the best means of cultivation. Every year, a cross-bund of mud used to be laid across the nearby stream at the cost of the villagers for irrigating their fields. This bund would annually be washed away by floods. By sheer perseverence Sarma moved the authorities to construct a masonry dam across the stream and the chronic trouble was eliminated altogether. The villagers are grateful to him for this amenity and have elected him as Up-Sarpanch of the village.

There was no occasion when he did not subscribe to the many savings schemes offered or development loans floated by the Government. The amounts he subscribed are not necessarily large but he set the example by always making a contribution whenever approached.

There is a Telugu proverb that farming by a Brahmin is foredoomed to failure. Sarma has proved that this proverb is a myth.

On what we are able to do now, will rest the fortunes of our country in the coming year. Our aim, our objective, our slogan should be "Two grains should now grow where only one grew before".—**Lal Bahadur**

Prosperity Dawns on a Harijan Village

S. VENKATASWAMY

ONE OF THE main factors for the successful implementation of any developmental scheme that involves people's participation, is the principle of 'self-help'. This principle has been practically demonstrated by the Harijans of Karanipuduchori village of Kattankolathur Block in Madras State. The fact, that self-help is the driving force for all developments especially in economic and social spheres, has been clearly proved by the Harijan Land Colony Society of that village.

For more than a generation, a group of about 40 Harijan families were living in very backward conditions in a low lying area. Since 1936 attempts were made in vain to obtain suitable land for cultivation and housing for the poor Harijans. At last a few acres of forest land was offered but the leaders of that village with all their sincere attempts, could not derive much benefit out of it.

Undaunted, they continued their efforts for a number of years. Their way to success was paved when a Cooperative Harijan Land Colony Society was started in 1962-63. Forty-two members, who joined this Society were allotted two acres of land each. Various items of development were implemented gradually, through this new organisation. A grant of Rs. 17,000 and a loan of Rs. 6,000 were sanctioned to the Cooperative Society. And, with this assistance, the barren land was converted into a smiling one thanks to the enthusiastic and hard work of the Society. Under Land Improvement and Agricultural Development Programme, a grant of Rs. 500 and a loan of Rs. 500 were sanctioned by the Government for digging a well. With this assistance, six wells have been dug in the area. Twenty-eight members of the Society purchased bullocks, after obtaining a grant of Rs. 150 and a loan of Rs. 150. each.

This timely help gave the necessary encouragement to the members, who did their best to improve their economic lot through agriculture. They now produce paddy, ragi, chillies, etc. They even raised a second crop of paddy and chillies, during the year 1963-64.

These Harijan members, do not usually employ labourers for various items of agriculture work, such as sowing, weeding, harvesting, etc., as all of them work on their land willingly, evincing personal interest. Hence, the cultivation expenses are comparatively low and they are able to save and pay back the loans, granted to them. They look forward to their Society for guidance and further assistance. The Society rises to the occasion and takes steps to provide all facilities.

A visit to the Colony shows, that the streets and houses are kept clean by its inmates. A certain amount of contentment and self-reliance are visible, among the people living in this new Colony. Even when they ask for more amenities, there is a dignified and reasonable approach. Their next target of achievement is to deepen a neighbouring pond and develop it as a small tank to ensure irrigation facilities.

Today, they have a number of assets, such as sprayers, dusters, double bullock carts and modern agricultural implements. They also get improved seeds and more manures through their Cooperative Society.

The evolution of this new Harijan Colony during the recent years, has opened new vistas in the lives of about forty-two Harijan families. Based on self-help, they have started a successful journey towards their goal of economic prosperity. The initial assistance and cooperative efforts provided by the Society gave the necessary fillip to their all-round development. The success achieved by these self-reliant people, will, no doubt, kindle hope and cheer in others for more prosperous and cooperative living.

I am asking the Kisans to give their toil and their sweat. Let them also go out in their millions to the fields that are waiting to be sown and with enthusiasm, endeavour and enterprise make every effort possible to increase the production of food. Whatever may befall let us conduct ourselves that even by suffering and by sacrifice we succeed in making this country of ours self-sufficient, self-reliant, self-respecting and strong.—**Lal Bahadur**

FROM HERE AND THERE

PRESENT EMERGENCY AND COOPERATIVES

IN A LETTER to all the State Governments, the Union Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation have indicated that the cooperatives have a crucial role to play in the present national emergency. There are over 3.4 lakh cooperatives of all types in the country with a membership exceeding 41 million. Of these about 2,09,000 cooperatives with nearly 24 million members are in the rural areas. They have over 3 million elected directors in the managing committees and over a million executive and secretariat staff. This large body of persons, by united and sustained efforts, can play a vital role in the defence effort.

In the context of the present emergency, the letter continues, the Village Volunteer Force is being geared to undertake the task of mass education and local defence in the villages. Members and office-bearers of cooperatives must, in large numbers, join the V.V.F., and assist this organisation effectively in its tasks.

In addition to assisting the V.V.F., it is essential that the cooperatives donate for the welfare of the Jawans and their families and render all kinds of help. The cooperatives should pool bullocks and other production requisites for optimum cultivation of all cultivable lands. Moreover, they should energise themselves to play an effective role in the forthcoming rabi campaign by providing credit as well as arranging for supply of production requisites in relation to (a) production needs as a whole, with special emphasis on potato, tapioca, vegetables and quick growing fruits like papaya and banana, and (b) promotion of poultry, dairy and fishery schemes. The cooperatives should ensure maximum support to intensive agricultural programmes like double-cropping etc., and provide leadership for formation of lift irrigation societies.

Among other tasks to be undertaken by the cooperatives, the Ministry have suggested the expansion and strengthening of consumer cooperative programmes both in urban and rural areas, holding the price line, and expansion in cooperative marketing activities and assistance in building up sizeable buffer stocks by playing an effective role in the procurement of foodgrains.

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C.D. IN URBAN AREAS

THE GOVERNMENT of India have approved the starting of 20 pilot projects on urban community development on an experimental basis during the current financial year. These projects are intended to bring about a change in the attitude of the urban population through local initiative and community efforts on a self-made basis and by motivating people for a concerted effort to improve conditions of living in cooperation with municipal and governmental agencies. The cities so far selected for these projects are : Bangalore, Patna, Hyderabad, Panjim, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Kanpur, Ludhiana, Sambalpur, Aurangabad, Mattancherry, Imphal, Agartala, Salkia (Howrah), and Tollyganj (Calcutta). The other five projects will be in the States of Assam, Madras, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir, which have not yet finalised the scheme. Further extension of the programme will be considered only after the evaluation of the results of the experiment.

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A CHILD'S GIFT

SANJAYA KUMAR, a five-year old boy of Hardoi in Uttar Pradesh, on learning of aggression of Pakistan and China against India at a meeting was so moved that he brought his *golak* and handed it over to the District Magistrate as his contribution towards the National Defence Fund. A sum of Rs. 45 and 17 Paise was found in the *golak* which also included three old one anna and one two pice coins alongwith four old pice.

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VILLAGERS GUARD NATIONAL HIGHWAY

THE CHANDWAJI village Panchayat of Ambar Panchayat Samiti in Jaipur district has constituted seven village defence squads with 70 persons of the village to guard the four-mile Jaipur-Delhi national highway passing through the Panchayat area.

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PANCHAYAT SAMITI'S CONTRIBUTION

AT A RECENT meeting of the Sri Madhopur Panchayat Samiti of Jhunjhunu district in Rajasthan, the members resolved to contribute their one day's D.A. and T.A. amounting to Rs. 500 to the National Defence Fund. The members further resolved to contribute their D.A. to the N.D.F. till the emergency lasts.

The meeting was informed that Gram Suraksha Dals had been formed in most of the villages to help the authorities in guarding essential services.

The employees of the Samiti have also decided to contribute their one day's salary amounting to Rs. 850.

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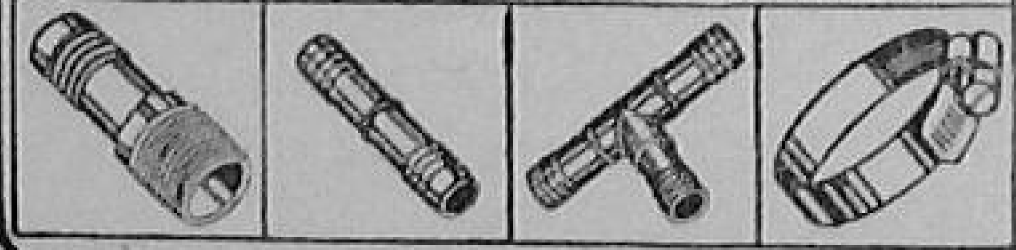

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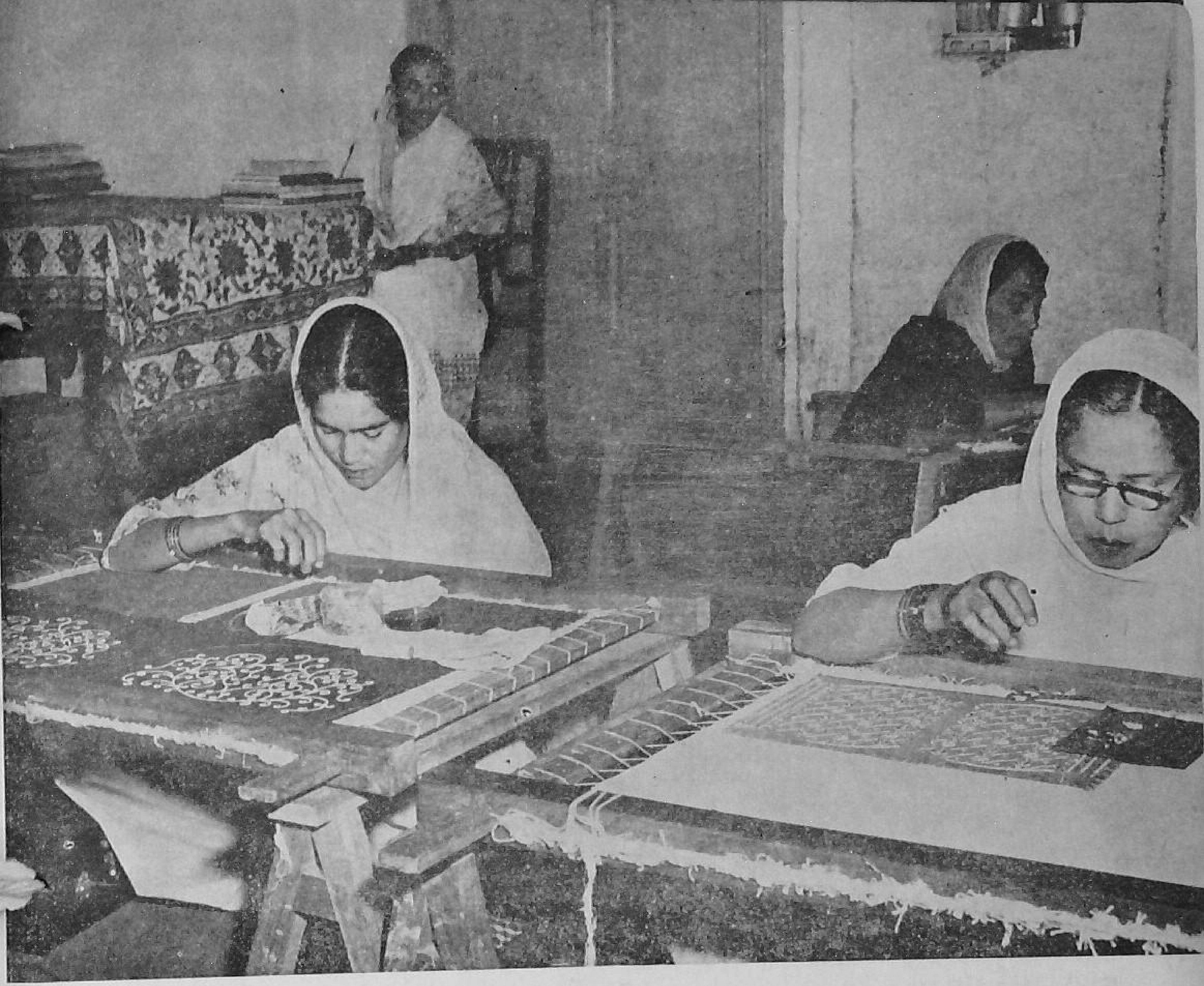

TOWARDS A BETTER TOMORROW

The cooperative movement started long, long ago in India on a limited scale and with rather limited objectives. It has grown big and is ever growing bigger because it has supplied a very big need. It is being gradually realised by our people that cooperation is the easiest and speediest means of improving their economic lot. Today the country is dotted with various cooperatives. Some have been established well, some are still struggling for a strong footing. But all of them are engaged in one noble task of building a better India for the posterity.

The photograph shows members of Women Zari Workers Cooperative Society at Bhopal busy in zari embroidery work.

The members of the Village Volunteer Force in a village in Madras are seen marching past after the successful completion of their training.

Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, Faridabad, and published by the Director, Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Delhi-6, on behalf of the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation.

Regd. No. D—877.